



## **Why are Assisted Living Staff Influenza Vaccination Rates Important?**

This survey collects information on vaccinations obtained during the flu season by staff working in assisted living residences with 10 beds or more. The flu season occurs each year between October 1st and March 31st. The rates that are shown are the percentage of staff vaccinated in the assisted living residence compared to the statewide average (the percentage of staff vaccinated in all Maryland assisted living residences completing the survey).

The Centers for Disease Control recommends that everyone 6 months or older get vaccinated against influenza as soon as the flu vaccine is available in their community. Getting vaccinated early provides protection throughout the influenza season. **It is especially important that persons who live with or care for people 65 years or older or those with medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, heart disease, or kidney disease get vaccinated against flu because older age and medical conditions puts a person at higher risk for influenza-related complications and death.**

The influenza season can begin as early as September and continues through the spring months of March and April. Annual vaccination is important because influenza is unpredictable; flu viruses are constantly changing and immunity from vaccination declines over time. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body and provide protection against the flu.

To compare assisted living rates click on “View results for all assisted living residences in this county”.

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